United Nations A/56/772–S/2002/57

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
15 January 2002

Original: English

General Assembly
Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 166
Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Fifty-seventh year

Letter dated 11 January 2002 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to bring to your attention the recent irresponsible and reckless misinformation ploy by Israel, also referred to in the letter contained in document A/56/766-S/2002/25, with regard to the reported seizure of a ship in the Red Sea allegedly carrying arms. Contrary to the totally baseless and purely unfounded allegations levelled by the Israelis against my country, I wish to inform you that my Government has strongly denied any knowledge of or connection with the seized ship. New information from highly reliable international sources concerning the ownership of the vessel has totally discredited the Israeli campaign of defamation and fabrication against my country.

It is astonishing that Israel, immediately after the seizure of the ship and prior to any investigations, claimed knowledge of every detail, including its origin and destination, whereas other informed countries continue to express doubts about the situation surrounding the ship. The fact that they turned a blind eye to the proposal put forward by the Palestinians to form a multipartite investigating commission to look into the incident speaks for itself and clearly points to a well planned script in place. No doubt that well prepared jailhouse interviews with the crew of the ship will never bring any credibility to the scheme.

It is evident that through a massive disinformation campaign, including the dispatch of Israeli intelligence operatives to various capitals, Israel aims at exacerbating the tension in the region in a futile attempt to cover up its campaign of aggression and State terrorism against the Palestinian people and undermines the support of international public opinion for the Palestinians. We warn that further plots to advance such schemes should be impending.

The international community should once and for all put an end to the Israeli game of deceit, defamation and forgery. Israel is armed to the teeth with the state-of-the-art weapons and it constantly continues its military build-up. It is a matter of public record that Israel has unlawfully acquired nuclear capability and possesses other weapons of mass destruction, thereby endangering the entire region.

02-21255 (E) 150102

The Islamic Republic of Iran once again and categorically rejects the Israeli allegations contained in the above-mentioned letter and expects the United Nations to hold Israel accountable for such forgeries aimed at exacerbating regional tension as well as the expansionist and militaristic policies that such misinformation campaigns intend to serve and justify.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 166, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Hadi **Nejad-Hosseinian**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative